UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/590,586	08/24/2006	Yukari Hirata	BY0040P	8509	
MERCK AND	7590 11/23/200 CO., INC	9	EXAMINER		
PO BOX 2000			CHANDRAKUMAR, NIZAL S		
RAHWAY, NJ 07065-0907			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			1625		
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
			11/23/2009	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Office Action Comments	10/590,586	HIRATA ET AL.				
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
	NIZAL S. CHANDRAKUMAR	1625				
The MAILING DATE of this communication app Period for Reply	ears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence ac	ldress			
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).						
Status						
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on						
	-· action is non-final.					
<i>;</i> —		secution as to the	a morite ie			
	3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.					
closed in accordance with the practice under L	x parte quayre, 1955 C.D. 11, 40	. O. O. 210.				
Disposition of Claims						
4) Claim(s) 23-35 is/are pending in the application	1.					
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.						
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.						
6) Claim(s) is/are rejected.						
7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.						
8) Claim(s) <u>23-35</u> are subject to restriction and/or	election requirement					
one standing of the standard to receive and and a						
Application Papers						
9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examine	r.					
10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) acce	epted or b) objected to by the E	Examiner.				
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).						
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).						
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.						
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119						
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign	priority under 25 LLS C & 110(a)	(d) or (f)				
a) All b) Some * c) None of:	priority under 35 0.5.C. § 119(a)	-(u) or (r).				
·— <u> </u>	have been received					
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents		N				
2. Certified copies of the priority documents	• •	<u> </u>				
	3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage					
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).						
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.						
Attachment(s)	. 🗖					
1) X Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	4) ∐ Interview Summary Paper No(s)/Mail Da					
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) Notice of Informal P					
Paper No(s)/Mail Date	6) Other:	-				

Page 2

This application is a 371 of PCT/JP05/04379 03/07/2005

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in the reply filed on 10/09/2009 is acknowledged. In a telephone conversation initiated by the Examiner on 11/04/2009, Eric Thies attorney for the applicant agreed for recasting the restriction/requirement in line with the election. As such, previously filed restriction requirement 09/11/2009 is withdrawn.

Claims 23-35 are before the Examiner and subject to the following:

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 23-34, drawn to compounds and compositions containing compounds of the following formula

Application/Control Number: 10/590,586 Page 3

Art Unit: 1625

$$R_1$$
 N
 R_3
wherein R1 is pyridine, quinoline or isoquinoline, R2 is as

fined in claim 1 and R3 is group (A).

Group II, claim(s) 23-34, drawn to compounds and compositions containing compounds of the following formula

$$R_1$$
 R_2
 R_3

wherein R1 is pyridine, quinoline or isoquinoline, R2 is as

defined in claim 1 and R3 is group (B). If this group is elected further restriction based on the heterocyclic group (B) would be necessary.

Group III, claim(s) 23-34, drawn to compounds and compositions containing compounds other than those of Group I and Group II. If this group is elected further restriction based on various variables of formula (I).

Group IV, claim(s) 35, drawn to pharmaceutical method of using compounds and compositions of Group I

Group IV, claim(s) 35, drawn to pharmaceutical method of using compounds and compositions of Group II

Group IV, claim(s) 35, drawn to pharmaceutical method of using compounds and compositions of Group IIII.

The inventions listed as Groups 1-24 do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the common core between all of these groups and the core of claim 1 is C of a ring. This is common to the compounds disclosed in US Patent 7417053. Due to this, the corresponding special technical feature is known in other compounds for other utility such as treating diseases mediated by MAPKAP-K2.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims.

Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be considered for rejoinder.

All claims directed to a nonelected process invention must require all the limitations of an allowable product claim for that process invention to be rejoined.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until all claims to the elected product are found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowable product claim will not be rejoined. See MPEP § 821.04(b). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to require the limitations of the product claims. Failure to do so may result

in a loss of the right to rejoinder. Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Page 6

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NIZAL S. CHANDRAKUMAR whose telephone number is (571)272-6202. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30 AM - 4.30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janet Andres can be reached on 571 0272-0867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nizal S Chandrakumar/

Examiner, Art Unit 1625

/D. Margaret Seaman/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1625